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Minutes

UNDP-GEF Project: “Integrated Natural Resources Management in the Baikal Basin Transboundary Ecosystem” (The Project)

<http://baikal.iwlearn.org>

The Russian Federation and Mongolia

Second Regional Steering Committee Meeting

Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

26 April, 2013

Chairman: Mr. V.Mamaev, UNDP-GEF Regional Technical Advisor, UNDP, Europe and the CIS, Bratislava Regional Centre

Secretaries: English - Uriel Heskia
Mongolian - Tumurchudur Sodnom
Russian - Larisa D. Radnaeva

Agenda: ref. Annex 1

Participants of the meeting: ref. Annex 2

The purpose of the Second Regional Steering Committee Meeting:

Presentation of the Project 2012 results and 2013 workplan and budget to the Steering Committee members and observers including overview of the revised Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis and the road map for the process of developing and enhancing the legal and institutional framework of bilateral transboundary water cooperation.



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The Second Regional Steering Committee Meeting was conducted in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia on 26 April 2013.

Opening of the meeting

The meeting of the Project Steering Committee was opened by Mr. V. Mamaev. He briefly informed participants about the aims of the meeting.

Participants of the meeting were welcomed by Mongolian National Project Director, State Secretary of The Ministry of Environment and Green Development of Mongolia, Mr. J. Batbold; UNDP resident representative in Mongolia, Ms. Sezin Sinanoglu; National technical director of Baikal Project Mr. Alexander A. Shekhovtsov (on behalf of National Project Director in Russia, Deputy Head of Federal Service for Natural Resources Supervision under Ministry of Natural Resources and Ecology of the Russian Federation, Mr. Amirkhan M. Amirkhanov who delegated his authority to Mr. Alexander A. Shekhovtsov); UNOPS Portfolio Assistant, Mr. Uriel Heskia; Head of the Federal Service for Natural Resources Supervision in the Republic of Buryatia (Russia), Mr. Konstantin G. Dremov; Minister of Natural Resources of the Republic of Buryatia (Russia), Mr. Bair D. Angaev; Minister of Natural Resources and Ecology of the Irkutskaya oblast (Russia), Mr. Oleg E. Kravchuk and Head of the Yenisei Basin Water Management (Russia), Federal water resources agency of the Russian Federation, Mr. Vladimir K. Blagov.

The Baikal Project 2012 results

Firstly, the Project Manager, Mr. S. Kudelya, reminded that all the Baikal Project 2012 results were sent to each Steering Committee member at the beginning of 2013.

Secondly, the Project Manager Mr. S. Kudelya reported about the Baikal Project 2012 results and expenditures.

Within the scope of the Project according to the 2012 work plan, 17 activities were implemented by government scientific organizations and NGOs from Moscow, Ulaanbaatar, Irkutsk, Ulan-Ude, Chita, Rostov on Don.

In 2012 during implementation of the Project 13 individual contracts were concluded with Russian and Mongolian experts of water resource management, interaction of surface waters and underground waters, biodiversity preservation in mining and tourism, Baikal basin hot spots, climate change on the Baikal nature territory, communication and public awareness of environment pollution and tourism development, training programs development and stakeholders' self-assessment.

Moreover, 3 contracts with international experts were concluded.

The Project participated in different events relevant to its goals and tasks. Totally in 2012, Project implementation bureau staff took part in 29 events. More than 50 media sources published information about project activities.

The Project web-site was launched. It works in Russian, Mongolian and English. Information is regularly updated. RSS channels are functional in the three above mentioned languages as well.

Approved first year budget of the Project was realized by 95.41%. Approved 2012 year budget was 1 084.275 USD and expenditure by the end of 2012 made up at 1 034 484.45 USD.

Outcome 1: The BUDGET: \$404 156.20 EXPENDITURE: \$486 312.97

The Detailed Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis was prepared. The PMU is polishing the final text and translation now but major activities were done in 2012. Within TDA preparation additional



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studies were made. These were: a) Study on the Selenga Delta water quality issues b) Study on the Selenga Delta habitat and the health of the benthic zone c) Groundwater resources assessment as a contribution to the TDA d) Pollution hotspot assessment f) Climate change assessment. Also, the activities of development of biodiversity conservation standards and sub-basin watershed management plans (Tugnui-Sukhara and Khilok sub-basins in Russia and Ider, Eg and Orkhon river basins in Mongolia) were started in 2012.

Outcome 2: BUDGET: \$246 618.86 EXPENDITURE: \$242 852.27

The Project supported the meeting of Plenipotentiaries and their working group. The concept paper and the road map for the process of developing and enhancing the legal and institutional framework of bilateral transboundary water cooperation were developed. The learning exchange with Sava River Basin Commission was organized. The database for modeling and simulation of pollutants transport in the Baikal basin waters was developed. The harmonized water quality monitoring program for the Selenga Basin was created.

Outcome 3: BUDGET: \$326 469.00 EXPENDITURE: \$202 329.09

Under implementation of Outcome 3 the conception of Baikal Information Center was developed and BIC web portal was launched. A self-assessment methodology was adopted for both countries. Now project consultants are working on surveys' preparation for relevant stakeholders using IWRM. Two ecological education enhancement plans were developed for the Russian Federation. A strategy for (dead) livestock disposal was created. Trainings for enchantment competency of administrative staff were conducted. Tourism plans for Baikal Biosphere Reserve and Zabaikalsky National Park were developed. Communication and public awareness plans for both countries were prepared. Finally, Shoreline clean-up campaigns in Russia and Mongolia for raising public awareness in environment conservation issues were organized.

Project Outcomes	Total budget (USD)	Expenditure 2011+2012	Budget 2013	Budget balance
Outcome 1: Strategic policy and planning framework				
	\$ 917 930.00	\$ 486 312.97	\$ 232 470.69	\$ 199 146.34
Outcome 2: Institutional Strengthening for IWRM.				
	\$ 751 534.00	\$ 242 852.27	\$ 213 222.11	\$ 295 459.62
Outcome 3: Demonstrating methods and approaches for water quality and biodiversity mainstreaming.				
	\$1 844 174.00	\$ 202 329.09	\$ 604 327.44	\$1 037 517.47
Project Management	\$ 384 362.00	\$ 102 990.12	\$ 90 670.73	\$ 190 701.15
TOTAL	\$3 898 000.00	\$1 034 484.45	\$1 140 690.97	\$1 722 824.58

Table 1. The Baikal Project Budget and Expenditures.

All project results and reports are published on the project web site.

Next the Russian National Technical Director of the project Mr. A. Shekhovtsov and Mongolian National Technical Director of the project Ms. Tumurchudur Sodnom presented detailed achieved



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results in Russia and Mongolia respectively. UNESCO representative, Ms. Z. Sarantuyaa, presented UNESCO 2012 executed activities in the Baikal Project.

After the presentations a comment was made by Mr. Bair D. Angaev, Minister of Natural Resources of the Republic of Buryatia (Russia), to include as part of the project an assessment of the ecological risks of establishing the planned hydro power plant “Shuren” on Selenga River (Mongolia).

The Head of the Mongolian delegation acknowledged the important comment, and assured that such risks would be taken into account, and mentioned that it was a part of Mongolian government responsibility, but not of the Baikal Project.

After this the National Project Director in Mongolia, Mr. J. Batbold delegated his authority to the Head of the Foreign Cooperation Division of The Ministry of Environment and Green Development of Mongolia, Mr. D. Batbold and left to another urgent meeting.

The Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis revision

The draft revised Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis was provided during Steering Committee meeting to all participants in English, Mongolian and Russian.

Dr. Saskia Marijnissen presented TDA updating process and steps for the development of the Strategic Action Programme (SAP).

She explained in details the correlation between the TDA and the SAP; emphasized on the importance of prioritization of transboundary BB problems; underlined the importance of implementing a causal chain analysis (CCA) as a root analysis for the TDA; presented the recommendations to change areas of the current TDA that was forwarded during the TDA workshop; made a comprehensive overview of SAP implementation process and presented the road map shown to reach the SAP endorsement by the governments (Sep-Oct 2014).

During the roundtable discussion several issues were underlined:

- That the TDA is a scientific and non-negotiated document. It is based on facts identified jointly by scientists from both countries, and problems are transboundary by nature. The ranking of the prioritization problems was done by experts from both countries.
- The TDA is not supposed to be endorsed by the Steering Committee.
- That the TDA forms the basis for the SAP which is political document and is negotiable; therefore any comments from Steering Committee members about TDA are very welcome.
- Steering Committee members will be given 4 weeks to provide additional comments to be taken into account for the final revision of the TDA and to be considered for the SAP.
- Experts will be given 4 weeks to review the TDA and to consider comments and if possible incorporate the views expressed by Steering Committee members into the TDA document. Updated draft TDA will be prepared by the end of June 2013.
- Then both governments will be given 2 months, July and August 2013, to provide final comments to be taken into account for the final revision of the TDA.
- Final version of TDA will be ready and print in September 2013 after final revision and taken into account all governments' comments.
- Title of problem area 1 “*Modification of Hydrological Flows*” identified in the TDA will be replaced with “*Change of Hydrological Flows*”.
- The rating of first three problems will be made equal and will be reordered: 1. Degradation of aquatic and terrestrial habitats 2. Change of Hydrological Flows 3. Decline of water quality.



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Enhancement of the Russian-Mongolian transboundary Cooperation in Environment Conservation and Water Management

A legal expert, Dr. Sergei Vinogradov, made a presentation on the current status and options for enhancing the legal and institutional frameworks of cooperation in the protection and sustainable management of transboundary waters between the Russian Federation and Mongolia. (Annex 3).

Dr. Sergei Vinogradov suggested two possible options for improving the existing legal framework for transboundary waters:

- Option 1. To continue using the existing treaties and address specific issues through an additional protocol (or a set of protocols). [This approach was applied by Russia and Kazakhstan]
- Option 2. To develop and adopt a new comprehensive agreement which should rectify the obvious shortcomings of the existing one, including its institutional mechanism.

During the ensuing roundtable discussion the following issues were identified and discussed:

- According to the project document, approved by both governments, the existing Agreement on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Waters (PUTW) between the Russian Federation and Mongolia needs to be enhanced. A new agreement has to be developed and a new institutional mechanism (commission) has to be established. The previous National Project Director in Mongolia, Mr. T. Badrakh stressed at the first Steering Committee meeting that the official government opinion was to leave the current mechanism in place. Therefore, the project supported the existing structures in 2012, and assisted in improving knowledge and expertise of responsible governmental officials in international legal aspects of transboundary water cooperation.
- The legal expert provided a comprehensive analysis and made recommendations to the Steering Committee. It was stressed that the Project may only provide recommendations to both governments on the basis of extensive UNDP-GEF experience in relevant matters, and not dictate precise actions. The final decision is outside of the Project's authority and mandate, and lies exclusively with the two countries concerned.
- After a thorough review of the situation, the Steering Committee decided to pursue the second option and committed the Project to prepare a draft comprehensive agreement on the Russian-Mongolian Cooperation in Environmental Conservation and Water Management using modern international practices, experiences and tendencies in transboundary environment and water cooperation. This document will be taken into consideration by both governments.

The Baikal Project 2013 work plan and budget

First of all, the Project Manager Mr. S. Kudelya reminded that the 2013 work plan was sent to each of the Steering Committee members at the beginning of 2013. Additionally Mr. S. Kudelya mentioned that the Project directly followed a budget from the project document signed by both countries without any significant deviations.

Secondly, Mr. S. Kudelya presented the 2013 work plan and the 2013 year budget of Outcome 1.

The proposed budget for Outcome 1 is **\$232 470.69**.

The TDA is 95% ready now. After this meeting, when comments have been provided, the PMU will finalize document details with the experts, and the TDA should be completed by the end of May 2013.



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Regular water quality monitoring in Delta will be supported in the defined monitoring stations during 2012 of the project implementation.

Groundwater resources assessments, as a contribution to the TDA, including surface water - groundwater interactions and groundwater dependent ecosystem in the Baikal Basin, will be finished in June 2013, as well as Review and rank upgrade needs for Mongolian municipalities in the Selenga River basin, including the identification of ongoing and planned water and sanitation projects, focusing on Kharaa River Basin pollution assessment.

In 2013 the project will form a Strategic Action Programme (SAP) group and will develop a draft structure of the SAP.

A gap analysis concerning best practices and the existing policies and standards in Russia will be provided. Recommendations for changes in local and national policies, legislation and regional development plans to enhance biodiversity protection will be developed. Ecotourism and pollution avoidance aspects for tourism plans in the region, especially those being developed in Irkutsk and Buryatiya will be proposed.

Sub-basin watershed management plans development for Mongolia and Russian sub-basin watershed management plans (Tugnui-Sukhara and Khilok sub-basins in Russia and Ider, Eg and Orkhon river basins in Mongolia) will be prepared.

In 2013 the PMU will print several documents prepared in 2012, for example, the final revised TDA and training materials.

Then, Mr. V. Mamaev asked Steering Committee members to provide any comments considering 2013 budget and workplan for Output 1.

One comment was provided by Mr. D. Batbold. He underlined that the 2013 work plan and budget would be endorsed post facto by the Steering Committee after Mr. J. Batbold from the Mongolian Delegation would have reviewed and accepted, and after all parties would have agreed to the final minutes of the meeting.

After that, Mr. S. Kudelya presented the 2013 work plan and the 2013 year budget of Outcome 2.

The proposed budget for Outcome 2 is **\$213 222.11**.

The Project will continue to support the Plenipotentiaries meeting(s).

Also assistance for the working group within implementation of the bilateral 1995 agreement "Protection and Use of Transboundary Waters" (PUTW) between Russia and Mongolia will be provided.

The Project will continue enhancement of the legal and institutional framework of the bilateral transboundary water cooperation.

Training materials based on self-assessment surveys will be developed and specific trainings will be organized.

The intercalibration of chosen indicators according to methods, which will be used by both sides for estimation of the Selenga river basin surface water quality, will be made.

The model of pollutants transport for the important areas of the Selenga River will be configured.

Finally, in 2013 the project will print several documents prepared in 2012, such as the harmonized water quality program and training materials.



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Then, Mr. V. Mamaev asked Steering Committee members to provide any comments considering 2013 budget and workplan for Output 2.

According to the decision made during the previous session after a legal expert, Dr. Sergei Vinogradov, presentation, it was proposed that the text in Outcome 2.1 in the work plan: “*Enhance the legal and institutional framework of bilateral transboundary water cooperation*” should be changed to: “*Prepare a draft comprehensive agreement “Russian-Mongolian Cooperation in Environment Conservation and Water Management”*”.

After that, Mr. S. Kudelya presented the 2013 work plan and the 2013 year budget of Outcome 3.

The proposed budget for Outcome 3 is **\$604 327.44**.

Pilot projects for mainstreaming biodiversity into mining will be conducted. There are a) development of technological solutions for cleaning of exploratory adit mine waters of Kholodninsky deposit and development of recommendations for designing of artificial geochemical barriers and accumulating pool for exploratory adit mine waters cleaning; b) development of technological solutions for minimization of anthropogenic impact of ore gold mining and processing enterprises on environment; c) determination of ways to solve the problems of mining enterprise waste safe storage and problems of elimination of Dzhidinsky tungsten-molybdenum plant environmental effects using the industrial processing of plant’s wastes;

According to recommendations for the developed (dead) livestock disposal strategy, two pilot cattle mortuaries will be constructed in Kurumkan and Barguzin district of Buryatiya, Russia.

A biodiversity compatible tourism plan for Baikalo-Lensky Reserve will be developed.

A biodiversity compatible tourism plan and eco-trail for the site of goddess Yangima representation of face on stone near Bargusinski Buddhist Temple, village Yarıcto, Buriatiya, Russia will be created.

A complex eco-travel tour for the Baikal State Nature Biosphere Reserve will be made.

A pilot sport fishing program will be prepared and organized.

During 2013 the Project will support activities for the BIC (Baikal Information Center) which was established in 2012. Maintenance will be provided as well as procurement of software and hardware will be performed. Additionally, the project will develop a BIC Ecological Atlas for the Baikal Basin.

Within the BIC, a NGO Network “Friends of the Baikal basin” will be established and supported.

For public awareness increase on the transboundary issues, the Documentary “Baikal without boundaries” will be made, and shoreline clean-up campaigns will be organized.

Then, Mr. V. Mamaev asked Steering Committee members to provide any comments considering the 2013 budget and workplan for Outcome 3.

No comments were provided.

The total 2013 budget is presented in the above mentioned **Table 1. Baikal Project Budget and Expenditures**.

After this, Mr. S. Kudelya presented changes which are necessary to make in the project document.



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Proposed change 1: the Project document states that project resources will be used to fund cost-effective monitoring work using instrumented buoys. After consultations with stakeholders it was identified that both countries do not have boats for transportation of the buoys. This is necessary due to the fact that the lakes freeze on annual basis.

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168. Project resources will be used to fund cost-effective monitoring work using instrumented buoys. High temporal resolution monitoring of temperature and DO profiles (among other parameters) can be accomplished using instrumented buoys. Buoys require less boat time (only setting in the spring and retrieving in the fall) and can therefore be a cost-effective approach. This work would learn from the global community of limnologists working with buoy-based lake monitoring: <http://gleon.org>.

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Budget notes. Water quality monitoring buoys (50k); Practical simple field monitoring equipment for mainstreaming demonstrations.

Proposal for changing: to spend all this money (50K USD) only for Mongolia and to buy an ion chromatograph for chemical laboratory of Institute of Meteorology, Hydrology and Environment (Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia) based on recommendations made in the Joint Harmonized Water Quality Monitoring program. (50K)

Decision about proposed change 1: All Steering Committee members agreed with this proposal and provided additional comments. Mr. S. Kudelya, Project Manager, will engage in further discussions with experts from Mongolia about the specific type of equipment needed. It was mentioned that there may be a need for one climatic station on Hovsgol Lake. Total amount for this procurement is not more than 50 000 USD.

Proposed change 2: Ecosystem resilience parameters for Hovsgol Lake are presented in the Strategic Results Framework. Monitoring data from annual monitoring program do not contain this information. Mongolia has one climate monitoring station on Hovsgol Lake. There are not any factories and hotspots near Hovsgol Lake. Industrial and private fisheries are not popular in Mongolia and are not developed because of cultural features. Mongolians do not use fish like traditional food. Fish estimation reserves have never been made. The project budget does not contain money for field monitoring.

p.63 Strategic Results Framework

<p>Ecosystem resilience parameters for Hovsgol Lake.</p> <p>- Nutrient concentrations: soluble reactive phosphorus (SRP) /Chlorophyl-a)</p> <p>depth[1]</p>		<p>Targets:</p> <p>SRP & Chl-a: No upward change;</p>	<p>Monitoring data from annual monitoring program.</p>	<p>Exogenous forces (sedimentation from development; pollution) that may affect results.</p>
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	16-20 meters	Secchi depth: no reduction.		
	TBD first summer season of project.	Abundance and age structure: maintained at baseline levels.		

Proposal for changing: Remove these parameters from the Results Framework.

Decision about proposed change 2: All Steering Committee members agreed with this proposal.

Before presentation of the third change, the project manager emphasized that according to the project document all biodiversity activities would be implemented only in the Russian Federation but their results will be shared with Mongolia for the purpose of knowledge sharing and replication enhancement.

Proposed change 3: There are not so many mining and tourism companies in the Russian part of the Baikal Basin. The mentioned quantity has to be decreased.

p.64 Strategic Results Framework

# of productive sector policies and regulations that incorporate biodiversity management and ecosystem resilience objectives in Russian and Mongolian portions of Baikal Basin. (Improved enabling environment for biodiversity conservation in target productive sectors of tourism, recreation and mining.)	By EoP a total of 10 policies or regulations modified to incorporate measures to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tourism: Revised and enhanced tourism plans adopted/not adopted by three target PA in Russia. - Mining: At least 2 policies modified in each country, for total of four. - Sport fishing: At least 1 regulation or policy modified by 2 protected areas in Russia. - Watershed management planning: at least one watershed management planning policy modified in each country.
Replication quantification measure: # of resource users applying biodiversity mainstreaming practices in mining and tourism sectors in Russia and Mongolia Baikal Basin.	At least 10 mining companies in Mongolia and 10 in Russia by EOP. At least 15 tourism companies in Russia and 15 in Mongolia by EOP

Proposal for changing:

1. Replace sentence “Mining: At least 2 policies modified in each country, for total of four” with “Mining: At least 2 policies modified in Russia”.
2. Replace sentence “Replication quantification measure: # of resource users applying biodiversity mainstreaming practices in mining and tourism sectors in Russia and Mongolia Baikal Basin” with “Replication quantification measure: # of resource users applying biodiversity mainstreaming practices in mining and tourism sectors in Russian part of the Baikal Basin.”



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3. Replace sentence “At least 10 mining companies in Mongolia and 10 in Russia by EoP” with “At least 5 mining companies in Russia by EoP”.
4. Replace sentence “At least 15 tourism companies in Russia and 15 in Mongolia by EoP” with “At least 5 tourism companies in Russia by EoP”.

Decision about proposed change 3: All Steering Committee members agreed with this proposal.

Proposed change 4: Taimen is a Red Book species. Such kind of species is prohibited for fishing in Russia.

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182. b) Pilot/model sport fishing program on low-impact, sensitive sport fishing tourism in the Baikal Basin. The “normal” way of sport fishing in much of the world is to “catch and kill.” To fish means to kill fish. This is problematic even with oceanic sport fisheries and especially so when it comes to maintaining healthy sustainable populations of sport fish in river systems like those in the Baikal Basin. Populations of the more desirable (and ecologically significant) larger fish are quickly reduced using “catch and kill” approaches. This has been the result in a significant portion of the Baikal Basin, where populations of taimen, lennok and grayling have plummeted, in some cases perhaps beyond the tipping point making natural recovery difficult and modifying the ecological balance of the river.

183. In the Mongolia’s Baikal Basin, however, there is at least one ongoing successful experience with sustainable “catch and release” sport fishing, that brings fishing clients to remote stretches of river to catch and release the legendary taimen. The program has been supported by solid field science, which has studied the ecology of taimen for several years, using various radio, satellite, and acoustic tracking technologies, shedding light on the impact of “catch and release” fishing on numbers and movement of the fish populations up and down the river, spawning times, diet, and age structure¹. The fishers themselves are involved in recording information on the fish they catch and release. Local communities also benefit and work is ongoing to form a more formal agreement between the fishing company and the local communities.

184. Peer-to-peer training will be central to this pilot. At least one successful “catch and release” operation will be used as a training base for tourism policy makers, fisheries enforcement officers, and sport fishing guides and operators from both countries. Organized groups of sport fishing guides will be trained in the basic tenets of low-impact, catch and release fishing using either fly fishing or lure fishing techniques. Proper catch and release fish handling techniques will be demonstrated. And work under this pilot will establish an association of catch and release fishing guides working in the Baikal Basin to facilitate policy engagement and ongoing capacity building and support programs.

Proposal for changing: Pilot/model sport fishing program in Russia has to be oriented only for legal fishing species.

Decision about proposed change 4: All Steering Committee members agreed with this proposal.

Finally, the project manager suggested setting up the Water Balance Model which is a very effective tool for Integrated Water Resource Management. He suggested organizing a joint project with the World Bank which will co-finance this activity in Mongolia within a pre-feasibility study of a dam construction on the Selenga River. The World Bank representative, Mr. Rikard Liden, participated in the Steering Committee meeting. The Baikal Project will support the Russian part of the model creation.

This proposal was agreed by the Steering Committee, but Mr. V. Mamaev, UNDP-GEF Regional Technical Advisor, explained that the Steering Committee would be informed at a later point as this action would have been co-financed by the World Bank. Mr. S. Kudelya, Project Manager, will

¹ Jensen, O.P., et. al. 2009. Evaluating recreational fisheries for an endangered species: a case study of taimen, Hucho taimen, in Mongolia. Canadian. Journal of Fisheries Aquatic Sciences. **66**: 1707–1718.



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continue to communicate with the World Bank. All Steering Committee members agreed with this proposal and underlined the importance of this suggestion.

Closure of the meeting

Before the meeting was officially closed by Mr. V. Mamaev, it was suggested to have the Third Regional Steering Committee Meeting close by Lake Baikal in July of 2014. Additionally, the Project Manager will inform each Steering Committee member about the 2013 results, the 2014 work plan and the 2014 proposed budget at the beginning of 2014. There were no objections from the committee to those suggestions.

Furthermore, Mr. V. Mamaev informed that the project would enter its mid-term in 2014, and would undergo a Midterm Evaluation which will be conducted by an independent consultant.

Based on the given reports, presentations, information and the results of the agenda discussions, the Project Steering Committee arrived at the following decisions:

1. To note the information about the project 2012 results and expenditures.
2. To note the information about the revised TDA.
3. The meeting participants are to provide comments about the revised TDA within 4 weeks. TDA experts will be given another 4 weeks to review the TDA and to consider and, if possible, to incorporate the views expressed by Steering Committee members into the TDA document. Updated draft TDA will be prepared by the end of June 2013. Then both governments will be given 2 months, July and August 2013, to provide final comments to be taken into account for the final revision of the TDA. Final version of TDA will be ready and print in September 2013 after final revision and taken into account all governments' comments.
4. To prepare a draft comprehensive agreement "Russian-Mongolian Cooperation in Environment Conservation and Water Management" using modern international practice, experiences and tendencies in transboundary environment and water cooperation. This document will be taken into consideration by both governments.
5. To approve the work plan and budget for 2013 after making the additions and amendments in accordance with the recommendations of the Steering Committee members.
6. To agree on the four changes to the project document.
7. The meeting participants are to provide comments about the official documents within 10 working days.
8. To hold the Third Regional Steering Committee meeting in early July 2014 in Russia, Lake Baikal.